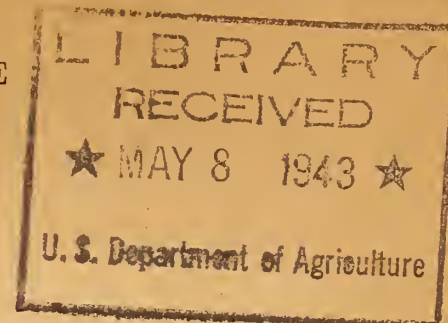


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ADMINISTRATION



NOTES ON THE BISHOP FARM

LOCATION:

This 105-acre farm is located on a hard surfaced county road between two equally thriving rural centers in central New York State. It is in the general vicinity of a city such as Utica or Schenectady.

SOIL:

Soil varies from a rather shallow heavy type, north and west of the main creek to a well drained loam to the southeast and south.

TOPOGRAPHY:

That portion of the farm lying above the road is generally rolling to hilly with some parts of the pasture steep. The portion south of the road is level to slightly rolling.

TILLAGE:

Approximately half of the farm is in tillage and grows somewhat better than average crops.

ROTATION:

The operator uses a four-year rotation system following corn and other cultivated crops with oats, barley, and hay two years in the rotation. It is the practice to keep ten acres in alfalfa. Only five acres of alfalfa sod is plowed up in any one year and an equal area is seeded. The operator, therefore, never has less than five acres of alfalfa to harvest.

PASTURE:

The nine acre pasture below the road is, potentially, the most valuable field on the farm, but is subject to alluvial damage. The stream meanders considerably and this condition will be an increasing problem as time goes on.

No effort has been made to improve the hill pastures. Much of the top

soil has disappeared. There are some thorn apples growing and spreading. The forage value is limited, thus forcing a bit too much dependence on the woods pasture immediately above and on the creek pasture below the road.

Possibly one-half of the woods pasture is open and affords some grazing. The balance affords no forage and new forest growth has been largely eliminated.

The north ten acres of woods is fenced primarily with a view to reducing the time required "to get the cows", rather than as forest protection. A visit to the woods will show that trees have been removed without due consideration of present value or future worth.

OPERATIONS:

The farm is operated as a dairy unit with poultry as a sizeable side line. Livestock consists of seventeen cows, three heifers, five calves, a grade bull, two hogs and three hundred fifty hens. All farm work is done by family members, except as it is possible to obtain necessary day labor for harvesting, threshing and silo filling. The boy of the family is soon to be drafted and the problem of man-power is therefore facing Mr. Bishop.

DAIRY:

The dairy is only average. Bishop has recognized the value of a good bull but so far has not felt financially able to purchase a proven sire. This has led to irregular breeding of his dairy herd.

POULTRY:

Mrs. Bishop is largely responsible for the poultry. She has insisted on buying good day old chicks from reputable hatcheries, but for the coming season is considering the purchase of range pullets. They have been starting chicks in the cellar of the house. Production of the laying flock has been good, 160 eggs per bird average. A few birds were lost last fall from

blow outs, but mortality over the past year has been low.

MARKETING:

Dairy rations and poultry grains are purchased thru a farmers' cooperative. Milk is delivered to a co-op and eggs are consigned to a cooperative egg auction.

Some years a few potatoes are sold. The irregular apple crop is disposed of at the local cider mill.

FRUIT:

A family patch of red raspberries is in production. A few cherry and pear trees have been set to replace apple trees which disease, time, and wind have eliminated. The old apple orchard is becoming an unproductive eye sore. Bishop is wondering what to do with this half acre.

GARDEN:

The family garden is a thing of delight on the Bishop farm. Mrs. Bishop is largely responsible. She has been advised by the Home Bureau and the United States Department of Agriculture of the basic vegetable needs of her family for sound nutrition, and has been laying out her garden accordingly.

THE BISHOP FAMILY

Charlie Bishop, the father, was born on this same farm 46 years ago. His people have been farming in New England and New York State for several generations. He graduated from a local high school, where he took all courses offered on agriculture, but with indifferent enthusiasm. Mr. Bishop's farming techniques are a blend of "practical experience" and theory as received from the local county agent and such media as the WGY farm paper of the air. Mr. Bishop is an old friend of Ed Mitchell and thinks Emerson Markham would make a "fine crusadin' preacher" and wishes he would conduct

the farm program on Sundays.

Mr. Bishop doesn't believe everything that he hears from the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture, but is open-minded in most of his opinions. His greatest hobby is cultivating his fellow men and enjoys having guests for dinner -- even bureaucrats. He and his family are all average, intelligent, informed, patriotic farm folks.

Mrs. Bishop (Marjorie), was born in one of the central New York cities. She attended high school and also had two years of training at a normal school. She is a very capable and resourceful woman and had little trouble in adapting herself to farm life after her marriage. She still has many urban friends and continues her keen interest in current events. Mrs. Bishop is "secretary and treasury" of the farm and family.

Fred Bishop, the 18-year old son, is strictly 1-A material and soon will be in the Army. In fact, it is with considerable difficulty that he has been kept out of the war thus far. Fred completed high school last year and was planning to enter college this fall as a freshman. This has now been postponed until after the war.

Fred is a Future Farmer and has lots of ideas and opinions on just about everything. He can always be counted on for an observation at dinner -- plus the ability to back it up with realistic opinions.

Sylvia Bishop, the 16-year old daughter is in the tenth grade. At the moment she wants to be an aviatrix when she grows up, but can sew a mean button and takes the culinary arts in stride.

Sylvia can always be counted on for a stimulating observation, modified and illustrated by episodes in the life of a normal vivacious 16-year old girl.

Hired Man

When and if Fred is called to the Army, the hired man, who will be obtained through WGY's farm labor exchange, will be a conservative of the old school. He will always be good for some careful and realistic criticism around the dinner table.

Neighbors

The Bishops have an infinite supply of neighbors. Among them, these neighbors have all of the problems and opinions possible to conceive. These are constantly being drawn upon to illustrate conversations at the Bishop dinner table.

